

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-12 HA-05 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /106 W  
-----082700 061324Z /42

R 060935Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1339  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY GABORONE  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, PDEV, RH  
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: SITHOLE REPORTEDLY WANTS UK PRESENCE  
IN INTERIM GOVERNMENT

1. PRESS ACCOUNTS OF JUNE 6 STATE THAT SIHOLE HAS PROPOSED  
TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (EC) THAT THE UK BE FORMALLY  
INVITED TO PLAY AN OBSERVER ROLE IN THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT.  
THE PROPOSAL WOULD GIVE THE UK OBSERVERS ON THE EC, WITHIN  
THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL, ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL DRAFTING  
COMMITTEE, THE CEASEFIRE COMMITTEE, AND THE ELECTORAL  
PREPARATION COMMITTEE. ONE ACCOUNT SAYS THE EC HAS NOT  
AGREED TO THE INVITATION BUT IS FAVORABLY DISPOSED. PUBLICLY  
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THE EC AND SITHOLE HAVE DENIED THE REPORT BUT ANOTHER  
ACCOUNT QUOTES FROM A MEMORANDUM SIGNED BY SITHOLE.  
SITHOLE REPORTEDLY WRITES THAT RHODESIA'S FUTURE IS  
TIED WITH BRITAIN BECAUSE IT IS THE COLONIAL POWER AND  
THE ONLY POWER FROM WHICH FORMAL LEGALITY CAN FLOW.

2. SITHOLE, WHO IS CURRENTLY CHAIRMAN OF THE EC,

ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS KEEPING AN OPEN MIND ON THE LOW/GRAHM MISSION. HE SAID "THERE SHOULD BE A DIALOGUE THAT IS CONSTRUCTIVE AND POSITIVE SO WE DON'T KEEP ONE ANOTHER IN ISOLATION", BUT HE SAW LITTLE HOPE FOR AN ALL-PARTIES CONFERENCE.

3. COMMENT: THE PROPOSAL FOR A UK OBSERVER IS NOT NEW. SITHOLE BROACHED THE IDEA ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS DURING THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT NEGOTIATIONS LAST YEAR. AT THAT TIME NO ONE ELSE SEEMED TAKEN BY THE IDEA ALTHOUGH IT MIGHT NOW SEEM AN ATTRACTIVE ALTERNATE PROPOSAL TO THE ALL-PARTIES CONFERENCE. THE EC PROBABLY HAS NO ILLUSTIONS ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF THE UK ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL, BUT COULD VIEW IT AS A POSITIVE MOVE TO GAIN SUPPORT IN MORE CONSERVATIVE CIRCLES ABROAD BY SEEMINGLY ATTEMPTING TO SECURE INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE AND APPROVAL.  
EDMONDSON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INTERIM GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978PRETOR03190  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780236-0123  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Retention:** 0  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2475737  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** RHODESIA: SITHOLE REPORTEDLY WANTS UK PRESENCE IN INTERIM GOVERNMENT  
**TAGS:** PINT, PDEV, RH, UK, (SITHOLE, NDABANINGI)  
**To:** STATE USUN NEW YORK  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014